

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method in a data processing system for providing addresses to clients, the method comprising:
 - receiving a request from a client for an address;
 - determining whether authentication information is present in the request;
 - performing an authentication process using the authentication information if the authentication information is presenting the request;
 - determining whether the authentication information is authenticated; [[and]]
 - responsive to the authentication information being authenticated, providing a privileged address to the client; and
 - responsive to the authentication information not being authenticated, providing a standard address to the client.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the privileged address is [[an]] a static Internet Protocol address that is identical to a previous address that was previously provided to the client in response to a previously received request from the client.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the authentication information is at least one of a pass phrase or a digital certificate.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the authentication information is the pass phrase and wherein the authentication process determines whether the pass phrase is a valid pass phrase.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the authentication information is the digital certificate and wherein the authentication process determines whether the certificate is from a trusted authority and is valid.

7. (Currently Amended) A method in a data processing system for assigning addresses to clients, the method comprising:

- receiving a request from a client for an address;
- determining whether authentication information is present in the request;
- performing a verification process using the authentication information if the authentication information is ~~presenting~~ present in the request;
- determining whether the authentication information is verified;
- responsive to the authentication information being verified, providing an address to the client;

[[and]]

- responsive to the authentication information not being verified, denying the request;
- receiving the address by the client, wherein the address received by the client is included in an offer from a server that performed the verification process;
- determining, by the client, whether the offer is authentic; and
- responsive to the offer being authentic, accepting the offer by the client.

8. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for providing addresses to clients, the data processing system comprising:

- receiving means for receiving a request from a client for an address;
- first determining means for determining whether authentication information is present in the request;
- performing means for performing an authentication process using the authentication information if the authentication information is presenting the request;
- second determining means for determining whether the authentication information is authenticated; and
- providing means, responsive to the authentication information being authenticated, for providing a privileged address to the client, wherein the privileged address is a static Internet Protocol address that is identical to a previous address that was previously provided to the client in response to a previously received request from the client.

9. (Original) The data processing system of claim 8 further comprising:

- providing means, responsive to the authentication information not being authenticated, for providing a standard address to the client.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) The data processing system of claim 8, wherein the authentication information is at least one of a pass phrase and a digital certificate.

12. (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the authentication information is the pass phrase and wherein the authentication process determines whether the pass phrase is a valid pass phrase.

13. (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the authentication information is the digital certificate and wherein the authentication process determines whether the certificate is from a trusted authority and is valid.

14. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for assigning addresses to clients, the data processing system comprising:

receiving means for receiving a request from a client for an address;

determining means for determining whether authentication information is present in the request;

performing means for performing an authentication process using the authentication information if the authentication information is ~~presenting~~ present in the request;

determining means for determining whether the authentication information is authenticated;

providing means, responsive to the authentication information being authenticated, for providing an address to the client; [[and]]

denying means, responsive to the authentication information not being authenticated, for denying the request;

means for receiving the address by the client, wherein the address received by the client is included in an offer from the providing means;

means for determining, by the client, whether the offer is authentic; and

means, responsive to the offer being authentic, for accepting the offer by the client.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer program product encoded in a computer readable medium for providing addresses to clients when executed by a data processing system, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for receiving a request from a client for an address;

second instructions for determining whether authentication information is present in the request;

third instructions for performing an authentication process using the authentication information if the authentication information is presenting the request;

fourth instructions for determining whether the authentication information is authenticated;
[[and]]

fifth instructions, responsive to the authentication information being authenticated, for providing a privileged address to the client; and

sixth instructions, responsive to the authentication information not being authenticated, for providing a standard address to the client.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the address is [[an]] a static Internet Protocol address that is identical to a previous address that was previously provided to the client in response to a previously received request from the client.

18. (Original) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the authentication information is at least one of a pass phrase and a digital certificate.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 18, wherein the authentication information is the pass phrase and wherein the authentication process determines whether the pass phrase is a valid pass phrase.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 18, wherein the authentication information is the digital certificate and wherein the authentication process determines whether the certificate is from a trusted authority and is valid.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer program product in a data processing system for assigning addresses to clients when executed by the data processing system, said computer program product comprising:

first instructions for receiving a request from a client for an address;
second instructions for determining whether authentication information is present in the request;
third instructions for performing an authentication process using the authentication information if the authentication information is ~~presenting~~ present in the request;
fourth instructions for determining whether the authentication information is authenticated;
fifth instructions, responsive to the authentication information being authenticated, for providing an address to the client; [[and]]

sixth instructions, responsive to the authentication information not being authenticated, for denying the request;

seventh instructions for receiving the address by the client, wherein the address received by the client is included in an offer;

eight instructions for determining, by the client, whether the offer is authentic; and

ninth instructions, responsive to the offer being authentic, for accepting the offer by the client.

22. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for providing addresses to clients, the data processing system comprising:

a bus system;

a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions;

a communications adaptor connected to the bus system; and

a processor unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processor unit executes the set of instructions to receive a request from a client for an address; determine whether authentication information is present in the request; perform an authentication process using the authentication information if the authentication information is presenting the request; determine whether the authentication information is authenticated; and provide a privileged address to the client in response to the authentication information being authenticated, wherein the privileged address is a static Internet Protocol address that is identical to a previous address that was previously provided to the client in response to a previously received request from the client.

23. (Cancelled)